

## SCS SB 566 -- RABIES VACCINATIONS

SPONSOR: Brown (Jones, 117)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Emerging Issues in Animal Agriculture by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute requires the owner of every dog or cat in the state to ensure that each animal is vaccinated against rabies. Each dog or cat must be vaccinated for rabies initially and periodically as determined by a veterinarian based on the age of the animal and the type of rabies vaccine administered or as required by an applicable municipal or county ordinance.

An owner of a cat or dog who possesses a current statement of exemption from vaccination for the animal is not required to vaccinate the animal. However, if exposure occurs, the dog or cat is considered to be nonvaccinated.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that on an annual basis, approximately 40,000 people in the United States must undergo a rabies post-exposure prophylaxis regimen, which is very expensive. By requiring dogs and cats, which are the barrier between wildlife rabies and people, to be vaccinated for the disease, the chance of exposure to rabies is greatly reduced.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Brown; Charles Massengill, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; and Bill Jones.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that only one person worldwide has ever survived rabies. Because rabies is so deadly, it is important to have animals vaccinated against rabies. In 2012, no domesticated animals in Missouri have tested positive for rabies, but several wildlife have tested positive.

Others testifying on the bill were Lauren Shultz, University of Missouri.